

House Resolution 658

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Talton of the 145th, Collins of the 27th, Frazier of the 123rd, Horne of the 71st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Business Executives for National Security (BENS) and the
2 Georgia Business Force; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in October, 2003, BENS accepted the challenge of the Governor of the State
4 of Georgia to develop an effective public-private partnership for homeland security and
5 established, among its members in the southeast region, a program entitled the Georgia
6 Business Force; and

7 WHEREAS, working closely with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)
8 and the Georgia Division of Public Health, the Georgia Business Force has effectively
9 brought private sector perspectives and resources to bear on matters of homeland security
10 and disaster preparedness and resilience; and

11 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force and its public sector partners have demonstrated
12 the great potential for public-private collaboration; and

13 WHEREAS, they have formed the Business Operations Center within GEMA to create an
14 operational presence in the State Operations Center, wherein the Georgia Business Force and
15 affiliated Business Operations Center member companies and associations actively
16 participated in training, exercises, and six mobilizations in response to actual emergencies;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force published guidelines for business response to a
19 bioterrorist attack, led regional exercises with a Strategic National Stockpile scenario, and
20 constructively introduced a private sector perspective to numerous disaster planning
21 initiatives; and

22 WHEREAS, the efforts of the Georgia Business Force and members of BENS southeast
23 region over the past five years are recognized and appreciated by the people of the State of

24 Georgia, and their contributions to the readiness of the state to respond to threats and
25 disasters has been significant; and

26 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force members currently include: Alston & Bird LLP,
27 Bank of America, the Coca-Cola Company, Colonial Pipeline Company, CSX
28 Transportation, DataPath, Inc., Deloitte and Touché, LLP, EmployBridge, Global Payments,
29 Inc., Holder Construction Company, The Home Depot, Manhattan Associates, North
30 Highland Company, Oldcastle Architectural, Inc., PODS Atlanta, Presidio, Inc., Southern
31 Company, SunTrust Banks, and the White Oak Group, Inc.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 this body recognizes and commends BENS and the Georgia Business Force for their
34 outstanding service to the citizens of the State of Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mr. Harrison Farris, Georgia
37 Business Force, and BENS.